

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SCA-01 /085 R

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-----070005Z 096364 /74-61

R 062118Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 002855

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ECON, OECD, JA

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL TAX

REF: TOKYO 18921

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NO READILY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON
EFFECTIVE COSTS OF OBTAINING PASSPORTS IN OTHER MAJOR
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. PERHAPS EMBASSY PARIS COULD
VERIFY WHETHER FRANCE HAS, AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, APPLIED
STAMP TAX SIMILAR TO THAT DESCRIBED REFTEL TO ISSUANCE
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OF PASSPORTS.

2. ANY ACTION BY GOJ TO EXTEND STAMP TAX TO PASSPORTS,
ESPECIALLY AT LEVEL REPORTED REFTEL, WOULD INEVITABLY BE
VIEWED BY REST OF WORLD AS MEASURE DESIGNED TO DISCOURAGE
OVERSEAS TRAVEL. SUCH A MEASURE WOULD BE INCONSISTENT
WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE OECD CODE OF LIBERALIZATION OF

CURRENT INVISIBLE TRANSACTIONS AND DECISIONS TAKEN IN
TOURISM COMMITTEE. ANY TYPE OF TAX UPON FOREIGN EXCHANGE
TRANSACTIONS FOR TRAVEL/TOURISM ABROAD WOULD CLEARLY FALL
WITHIN SCOPE OF CODE.

3. LATEST OECD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK (RELEASED DECEMBER 29)
STRESSES RESPONSIBILITY WHICH THREE ECONOMICALLY LARGEST
AND STRONGEST OECD MEMBERS -- THE US, GERMANY AND JAPAN --

HAVE IN MAINTAINING THE MEDIUM-TERM RECOVERY PATH WHICH
OECD GOVERNMENTS JOINTLY AGREED LAST JUNE WOULD BE
DESIRABLE. ADOPTION BY ECONOMICALLY STRONG COUNTRY SUCH
AS JAPAN OF MEASURES WHICH COULD IMPAIR THE BALANCE
OF PAYMENTS ADJUSTMENT PROCESS WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT
WITH JAPAN'S ROLE AMONG DEVELOPED ECONOMIES.

4. SHOULD GOJ ADOPT PASSPORT STAMP TAX OR SIMILAR
MEASURE WHICH WOULD AFFECT OVERSEAS TRAVEL, ONE OR
MORE OECD MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE US, COULD BE EXPECTED
TO RAISE THE MATTER IN AN APPROPRIATE OECD BODY.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO CONVEY
ABOVE VIEWS TO APPROPRIATE GOJ REPS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, PASSPORT REGULATIONS, TRANSPORTATION TAXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE002855
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PLLAASE:VF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770006-0505
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770174/aaaacmut.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ef67b8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TOKYO 18921
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3650171
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSAL FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL TAX
TAGS: EFIN, ECON, JA, OECD
To: TOKYO PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ef67b8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009